



Friends of the Guelph Public Library Annual General Meeting

Minutes June 12, 2025 - 7 pm – Main Library, Program Room

Present: Ian Findlay (Chair), Joanne Grodzinski (Treasurer), Nancy Ryan, Kathy MacLean, Lynn Allen, Tara Signorelli, May Goodwin, Dan Atkins, plus 17 additional attendees

Absent: Linda Kearns, Lorna Rourke, Danny Williamson, James Gordon

Recorder: Tara Signorelli

Land Acknowledgement: Kathy MacLean

7:04 pm Call to Order

1. **Motion to Approve the Agenda** I. Findlay
Business arising not listed elsewhere on the agenda – none
M. Goodwin/A. MacKay **carried**
2. **Executive Members' Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**
I. Findlay requested that those present respond to the Members' Declaration.
All responded in the affirmative.
3. **Motion to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2024** I. Findlay
T. Signorelli/K. MacLean **carried**
4. **Report from the Chair** I. Findlay
A new Chief Librarian has been named for GPL – Dan Atkins.

Thanks to the support of our community, the library and our location sponsor Bamco, the Giant Book Sale was a success. There were more than 250 volunteers, 80,000 donated items for sale, and \$95,000 raised over 5 days of the sale.

The Programming Committee held 3 “Open Minds” events in Spring 2024 (Tom Wilson, Kevin Callan, Sharon Hampson) and 2 in the Fall (Crime Stoppers and Kevin Matsui) and 2 “Guelph Writes” events with Vocamus Press in 2025.

Tonight, the Friends would like to announce a new Strategic Plan, which aims to clarify the FGPL mission, goals and objectives for the future in a time of transition to the new Library.

Special acknowledgements:

- James Gordon, who is stepping down from the board, for his time and energy with the Programming Committee.
- Dan Atkins and the library staff for technical and support over the year.
- Lisa Cunningham, who has been assisting our group for 15 years as our GPL liaison and has moved on from her position with the GPL.



- Danny Williamson, who as chair of the GPL Board of Directors, been enthusiastic and engaged with the FGPL.
- Linda Kearns for all her work maintaining the FGPL website.
- Lynn Allen, for stepping up to be the Chair of the Book Sale and her work with the Governance Committee.
- May Goodwin, for keeping FGPL on track over many years.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

J. Grodzinski

The Treasurer confirms that the Friends of the Guelph Public Library is in full compliance with all statutory requirements/remittances as of March 31st, 2025.

Bookkeeping was changed to Quickbooks this year. Book Sale profits were invested in term deposits.

Thanks to Elaine Lilley and John Holdman who acted as auditors and found the records to be in order.

The 2025-26 proposed budget has \$11,000 assigned to programs, where some funds are allocated to specific line items.

Motion to approve the Financial Report for 2024-25

J. Grodzinski/M. Mullholland

carried

6. **Governance Committee Report**

I. Findlay

To modernize and improve governance of FGPL, the bylaws were updated to follow ONCA best practice, including the change to call the former "Executive Members" the "Board of Directors", and a new membership model.

In a review of the Strategic Priorities the following were identified: renew our relationships (with GPL, volunteers, supporter and the community), succession planning, fundraising, supporting the transition to the library, examining the Book Sale model for sustainability, advocacy on behalf of GPL. The action items will be implemented over the coming years and a policy manual will be coming soon that will support the bylaws.

7. **Membership Report**

K. MacLean

Due to decreasing membership and engagement from the community, and increasing fees and paperwork needed to maintain a membership record the Membership model was examined. To be more inclusive and maintain relationships with volunteers a new model was proposed in Fall of 2024 to the Board and then a final model was sent to the membership in April of 2025. Members will be redefined to elected and honorary only and these are the individuals with voting rights. Others that are engaged with FGPL will be called "supporters" and their input and participation will be not only be welcomed, but it will be key to reaching our goals, and any supporter may participate on committees formed from the FGPL (Book Sale, Governance, etc.). Any available positions on the Board can be filled from this community of supporters and anyone can still donate on the website and will receive a tax receipt.



Q – what is the number of elected board members and honorary lifetime members? – currently, 9 and 10 respectively, and maximum of 12 and unlimited (but generally 1-2 per year).

Clarification requested that next year's AGM, general supporters will not have voting rights – confirmed.

Motion to approve the new Bylaws

L. Allen/J. Grodzinski

carried

8. **Programming Report**

N. Ryan

“Open Minds” program in the fall had Kevin Matsui from the University of Guelph come to talk about AI models and Crime Stoppers came to talk about how to avoid scams and frauds. Programs were well attended and received.

Guelph Writes was a reinvention of Guelph Reads and it was well attended and received.

Feedback from supporters is welcome regarding programs.

Q – Can non-members be on the program committee? Yes, and the Program Committee is actively looking for new members.

9. **Book Sale Report**

M. Goodwin and L. Allen

It was challenging to find a venue for 2024 sale. 51 locations were considered and rejected. Thanks to the Anselmi Brothers and John Fazari a location was found on Elmira Rd. N. The sale had more than 5000 shoppers with an average spend of \$24/shopper. 66% of all items were sold or donated to charity. It was challenging to find leadership volunteers. M. Goodwin stepped down as Chair of the Book Sale Committee after the sale and L. Allen has agreed to step up for 2025.

The Bamco Site at 440 Elmira Rd. N has been selected again for the 2025 sale. The lease has been signed and will be delivered tomorrow. Plans to mitigate the heat, which was a significant issue in 2024 are already underway with plans to use cooling units and a dehumidifier. Donations will start in August at 3 library branches and then later in August at the site as well. The Book Sale Committee plans to review its model with sustainability of the sale in mind after the 2025 sale is completed. Sale dates will be in September.

Suggestion – have a sale in the 100 Norfolk St. library once it is vacated and prior to sale.

10. **Library Report**

D. Atkins

The GPL has a new strategic plan “Barriers to Bridges”, which was approved in 2024 and includes important milestones in a 3-year plan, that has a bold vision centered around an expectation of empowerment. The mission is inclusive, highlighting sustainable spaces and opportunities that engage curiosity and create community. The values are: Trust, Belonging, Curiosity and Resiliency.

4 Objectives :

- Pillar of Public Value
- Investment in the Team



- Simplify Stories
- Future Focused Library

Thank you to the FGPL that assisted the GPL get to this point of a new Central Library, with decades of advocacy, political pressure and support in a meaningful partnership.

Progress of the new library: 99% complete structurally, electrical/plumbing/exterior are underway. Highest elevation was reached today. Staff selection of furnishings and determining logistics has begun and it is still on time and on budget. Estimated move in in Winter 2026.

11. **Nomination Report**

I. Finlay

Selection process seeking candidates through word of mouth and by eblast to the membership yielded six candidates and in the end the committee is putting forward Melinda Wilson, Nethmi Kulatilake, Isuri Herath for consideration. Brief biographies of each candidate were given. There are still opportunities for involvement for the other candidates not put forward for consideration.

Motion to accept Melinda Wilson, Nethmi Kulatilake, Isuri Herath as new members of the Board of Directors

L. Allen/D. Grasset

carried

12. **Honorary Membership**

I. Finlay

Honorary lifetime memberships and much gratitude given to May Goodwin and Bill MacKinnie.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm

M. Mullholland